

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU, PLOS

SUBJECT: GREEK POSITION ON THE AEGEAN

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED FEBRUARY 4 ON JOHN NORTON MOORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE NSC'S INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, TO SEEK U.S. SUPPORT ON AEGEAN ISSUES AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON MARCH 17. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. COULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DIS-APPOINTED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S "IMPECCABLE NEUTRALITY" ON AEGEAN ISSUES WHICH ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO GREECE. ALEXANDRAKIS EMPHASIZED THAT GREECE WOULD BE FLEXIBLE ON THE STRAITS QUESTION AND NAVIGATIONAL ACCESS, IF THE ISLANDS REGIME COULD BE RESOLVED.

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3. MR. MOORE SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ALL CONCERNED IF THESE ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY

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INVOLVED. ALEXANDRAKIS POINTED OUT THAT AS YET THE TURKS

HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE GREEK INITIATIVE. ALEXANDRAKIS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ARISING OUT OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CANNOT, IN ANY CASE, BRING INTO QUESTION THE GENERAL RULE THAT ISLANDS AND MAINLANDS HAVE EQ-AL SOVEREIGNTY.

4. COMMENT: ALEXANDRAKIS CLEARLY INDICATED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT MAY MODIFY ITS OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. STRAITS PROPOSAL IN RETURN FOR U.S. SUPPORT ON THE ISLAND ISSUE. KISSINGER

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